PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey # 68-70	Building Date _1907	
Building Name <u>Clark-Owsley</u> House		
Location6311 49th Street, Riverdale, MD		

Private / Residence / Occupied / Good / Inaccessible

DESCRIPTION

The Clark-Owsley House at 6311 49th Street (Lots 1 and 2, Block 23, Riverdale Park), is a two-story and attic, detached frame dwelling on a concrete foundation with a rectangular plan and a side-gable roof. The house is sited on a large, parcel at the southeast corner of 49th and Sheridan streets in the Town of Riverdale. The house has a Foursquare plan and shallow projecting bays along with a facade-wide front porch. The exterior of the house is simply decorated with late Queen Anne details and is currently sheathed with aluminum siding. The interior plan remains intact, and original woodwork, particularly first floor mantels and stair details are in excellent condition.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Clark-Owsley House is significant as an example of the modest frame houses built in Riverdale and other Washington area suburbs around the turn of the century. The house, which is a prominent landmark in the community, is located on a large, partially treed lot at the southeast corner of 49th and Sheridan Streets. The northern portion of the house's parcel, originally planned as one of the subdivisions traffic circles, was never built. The interior of the house is significant for its Queen Anne style decorative woodwork. The house was built in 1907 by Alfred Clark, a plate printer at the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, whose family occupied in until 1920.

Acreage: 16,600 square feet

	···	}~~~~
Survey	No.	68-70

Magi No.

~~=		
DOE	yes	no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

· ·	·	* * * *	·	•
1. Nan	1e (indicate pr	referred name)		•
historic				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
and/or common	Clark-Owslev Hous	se		
2. Loca				
street & number	• 6311 49th Street		_	not for publication
city, town Riv	verdale	vicinity of	congressional district	5th
state Marylar	nd	county	Prince George's	
	sification		-	
Category district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered x not applicable	Status	Present Useagriculturecommercialeducationalentertainmentgovernmentindustrialmilitary	museum peric peric peric private residenc areligious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prope	rty (give names a	and mailing addresse	s of <u>all</u> owners)
neme Terrer	nce and Elizabeth Ov	wslevi		
	6311 49th Street		telephone n	· · ·
	iverdāle	state	and zip code Maryl	and 20737
		al Descripti	 	·
	stry of deeds, etc. PG Co			liber 6930
street & number	14735 Main Street			folio 720
city, town uppe	er Marlboro	• •	state	Maryland
6. Rep	resentation	in Existing	Historical Surv	eys
title NONE		•		·
date			federalstat	ecountyiocs
depository for su	Now records			
city, bosen	m valg I makan Mili	• • • • • •	etric	

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one		
excellent X good	deteriorated	unaitered X altered	X original site	_	
fair	unexposed	A MINETED	moved date	of move	

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Clark-Owsley at 6311 49th Street is a two-story and attic, detached frame dwelling on a concrete foundation with a rectangular plan and a side-gable roof. The house is sited on large, partially wooded lot at the southeast corner of 49th and Sheridan streets in the Town of Riverdale. The house is simply decorated with late Queen Anne details and is currently sheathed with aluminum siding.

The house's main (west) facade is two-bays wide. A facade-wide porch, with a wooden deck and a shallow hip roof, shelters the first story. The porch roof is supported by four round wooden columns. The house's main entry is located in the north bay and is composed of a single, wood and glass, paneled door with a single-pane transom. The door's lower panel is decorated with a carved Adamesque garland. Above the entry, at the second story is a large 1/1 double-hung wood frame window. The southern bay of the main facade consists of a two-story projecting semi-hexagonal bay with three large 1/1 double-hung windows at each story. The bay is surmounted by a pedimented front-gable roof with a small 1/1 double-hung attic window.

The south facade is also two bays wide. The western bay is unfenestrated at the first story and has a large 1/1 double-hung window at the second story. The eastern bay has a two-story projecting semi-hexagonal bay identical to that of the main facade, although here it is surmounted only by a shallow hip roof united with the side-gable cornice returns. The attic is fenestrated with a 1/1 aluminum frame sliding-sash window that is not original.

The east (rear) facade is three bays wide. The southernmost bay of this facade is unfenestrated and an unpainted aluminum chimney flue exits the house at the first story. Across the center and the northernmost bays at the first story, is a rectangular-plan projection with a shallow hip roof that encloses the original kitchen porch. The wood and glass entry door and 1/1 double-hung window of the projection are not original. Access to the entry is provided by a redwood stair and stoop encircled by a railing and sheltered by a shed roof. At the center bay of the second story is a small 1/1 double-hung window. At the northernmost bay of the second story is a large 1/2 double-hung window.

The north facade of the house is two bays wide. The north wall of the rear facade projection (with a non-original 1/1 double-hung window) is flush with the eastern end of the main block. The eastern bay of this facade contains a double, 1/1 double-hung window at the first story that is not original. At the second story this bay contains a large 1/2 double-hung window. The only fenestration of the western bay are the two small, widely-spaced, diamond-pane casement windows at the first story. The attic gable contains a small aluminum-frame sliding sash window similar to the one found on the south facade.

Section 7 Page 2

The house's interior has a Four-square plan. The first floor has four rooms of roughly equal size. The second has four rooms and a bath in a less regular arrangement around a narrow hall running east-west. Throughout the house, floor boards, low-relief floor moldings, door surrounds and doors retain their original stained finishes. In most rooms, original plaster walls have been covered with synthetic paneling that has been decoratively painted and stenciled. Ceilings have been covered with acoustical tiles.

The entry/stair hall is located in the house's northwest corner. In the northwest corner of the hall is a small coat closet not original to the house. The room's most important decorative features are to two, widely-spaced, diamond-pane casement windows on the north wall and the L-shaped stair with its carved newel post, square spindles and banister in the northeast corner.

South of the entry hall and lighted by the main facade's hexagonal projecting bay, is the parlor. Access to the parlor is provided by a pair of wide wood and glass French doors, each with 15 lights. The room's most distinctive decorative features are the tall Queen Anne false mantel in the northeast corner and the single, wide pocket door in the east wall, leading to the dining room. The tiger oak mantel is framed by Doric columns. The overmantel contains a large, rectangular beveled-glass mirror. The firebox is concealed by narrow, rectangular, mottled-green glazed tiles that appear to be original.

To the east of the parlor, accessed by the paneled pocket door, is the dining room. The room is lighted from the south by the house's other semi-hexagonal bay. The room's most prominent decorative feature is a tiger oak Queen Anne false mantel in the northeast corner. This mantel is shorter than the parlor mantel and lacks columns. Instead of a tiled firebox, this mantel has a three-shelf cupboard with leaded-glass casement doors and its overmantel contains an oval beveled-glass mirror.

The northeast corner of the first floor is occupied by the kitchen, which does not retain and historic details and has been expanded by the enclosure of the kitchen porch at the northeast corner of the house.

The second story contains three bedrooms, each a different size, and a bath organized around a narrow hall running east-west. Approximately centered on the north half of the floor is the stair from the first floor and the enclosed stair to the attic, adjacent to the west. All rooms and the hall retain their original, modestly-detailed moldings and surrounds. A large, walk-in closet has been added to the largest bedroom which occupies the entire west (49th Street) side of the floor. The largest bedroom is composed of a sleeping area to the south lighted by the semi-hexagonal bay of the west facade and an alcove/sitting area to the north separated by a wide flat-arched opening. At the southeast corner of the second floor is a smaller bedroom, lighted by the semi-hexagonal bay of the south facade. North of this bedroom, at the east end of the hall is the bath, which does not retain any original features. At the northeast corner of the floor is the smallest bedroom.

PG	, a	

8. Significance

Survey No., 68-70

Period preh 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900	1499 archeology-historic 1599 agriculture 1699 architecture 1799 art 1899 commerce	heck and justify below community planning landscape law conservation literature economics literature education military engineering music exploration/settlement philosophy industry politics/gov	architecture religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater vernment transportation other (specify)
Specific	dates	Builder/Architect	
check:	Applicable Criteria:A	BCD	
	and/or Applicable Exception:	A _B _C _D _E _F _G	
	Level of Significance:	nationalstatelocal	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Clark-Owsley House at 6311 49th Street is an example of the modest frame houses built in the Riverdale and other Washington area suburbs around the turn of the century. The house has a Foursquare plan and shallow projecting bays along with a facade-wide front porch. The house, located on a large, partially treed lot at the southeast corner of 49th and Sheridan streets in the subdivision of Riverdale Park and is a prominent landmark in the community.

The land on which Riverdale Park was built had been part of the Riversdale Plantation established in 1801 when Henri Joseph Stier, a Belgian aristocrat, purchased 800 acres north of Bladensburg and began to develop a plantation. After Stier's return to Belgium in 1803, completion of the Riversdale mansion and management of the plantation were taken over by his daughter Rosalie and her husband, George Calvert. The Riversdale Plantation became a model of its type, and remained within the Calvert family for three generations. After the death in 1864 of Charles Benedict Calvert (son of Rosalie and George Calvert), a commission was appointed to divide the plantation among his heirs and a 300-acre dower lot, including the mansion and the family burial ground to the northwest, was laid off for Calvert's widow. This 300-acre dower lot (as well as the 175-acre lot adjoining it on the north) was sold by Calvert heirs in 1887 to John Fox, president of the Riverdale Park Company, a New York real estate syndicate which then began to develop the suburb of Riverdale Park.

The land was platted in 1889 by surveyor D.J. Howell. Streets were laid out in a grid pattern, straddling the Washington line of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, which ran north and south through the new community and offered residents easy commuting into the Federal City to the southwest. Park spaces, and circles of green were provided in the plan and parkland was reserved around the Calvert mansion which was to be preserved "as a sacred relic of an era replete with historic memories." Streets were named for the Presidents of the United States, Washington through McKinley, as well as for other distinguished statesmen such as Clay, Lafayette and Beale.

Section 8 Page 2

Construction of dwellings began in the early 1890s. All were of frame construction, and reflected the popular taste of the period, as illustrated in house plan catalogs of those years. Some were pyramidal-roof Foursquares, others front-gabled or cross-gabled; many were highlighted by projecting bays or corner towers, and almost all had prominent wraparound porches with jigsawn decorative details. By the turn of the century, the new suburb had approximately 60 dwellings, a Presbyterian church, a handsome Victorian schoolhouse and a railroad station; the latter two public buildings were built by the Riverdale Park Company. There were two general stores, and telephone and telegraph communications were available. Concrete sidewalks were constructed, and sewers were provided for the principal streets. Because of its convenient location, its efficient line of transportation into the City, its primary school, and its picturesque, tree-lined streets, Riverdale Park became one of the most desirable residential suburbs in the Washington area.

The Clark-Owsley House was built by Alfred E. and Clara M. Clark who purchased Lots 1 and 2 in Block 23 of Riverdale Park, in April of 1906. Assessment records indicate that construction on the Clark home was completed by summer of 1907. The lots chosen by the Clarks were prominently sited at the southeast corner of Clay Circle, a public green at the intersection of what were then known as Columbia and Jackson avenues. Although the traffic circle was never built, its sweep was to have occupied a portion of Lot 1 and this may account for the location of the Clark house on the southern portion of their lots.

Alfred Clark, was one of many early residents of Riverdale who chose to raise their families in the suburbs and commute to jobs in downtown Washington via the streetcar or railroad. In 1910, according to census records, the Clark family was composed of Alfred, a plate printer at the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, his wife Clara who was at home, and eleven year old Earl and seven year old Evelyn. The Clarks occupied the house until 1920 when they sold it to Charles H. and Grace S. Storms.

Although the house's exterior has been altered with the addition of aluminum siding, overall the house has retained most of its original details. Charles and Grace Storms sold the house in 1927 to Sophia Grodzicka, who with her family occupied it for 45 years until 1972, when it was sold to David and Lila Jean Devnew. The house was purchased from the Devnews in March of 1988 by its current owners, Terrence and Elizabeth Owsley.

Notes

- ¹See <u>Riversdale</u>, <u>Historic Structures Report</u>, 1979, Part II, History (S.G. Pearl).
- ²Prince George's County Equity Records #475.
- ³Prince George's County Land Records, JWB 8:426, JWB 12:484, JWB 13:614.
- ⁴Riverdale Park Real Estate Brochure (undated), circa 1904.
- ⁵Prince George's County Plat JWB 5:747, 688; Riverdale Park Real Estate Brochure (undated), circa 1904.
- ⁶Riverdale Park Real Estate Brochure, "Riverdale Park" article, source unknown. circa 1899.
- ⁷Prince George's County Land Records, 34:286.
- ⁸Prince George's County Assessment Records, E.D. #2, 1907, p.38.
- 9Thirteenth Census of the United States: 1910 Population, Maryland, vol 53. Prince George's County.
- ¹⁰See Prince George's County Land Records, 153:169, 294:429, 4142:321 and 6930:720

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. 68-70

See Notes, Section #8

10. Geogra	phical Data			
Acreage of nominated pro Quadrangle name Washi	perty Lots 1 and 2 Blo ngton East	nck 23,Riverd	ale Park Quadrangle scale	
UTM References do NO	T complete UTM refer	ences		
A Zone Easting	Northing	B Zone	e Easting Northing	
c		0		
E		FLL	<u> </u>	
$G \begin{bmatrix} 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \end{bmatrix}$		н 🕍		
List all states and cou state	nties for properties overl code	county	code	
state	code	county	code	
11. Form P	repared By			
name/title Howard S.	Berger, Architectura	l Historian		
organization P G Count	y Historic Preservat	ion Comm.	date May 1990	
street & number 4th F1	oor, CAB		telephone (301) 952-3520	
city or town Upper Mar	l boro		state Maryland	

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

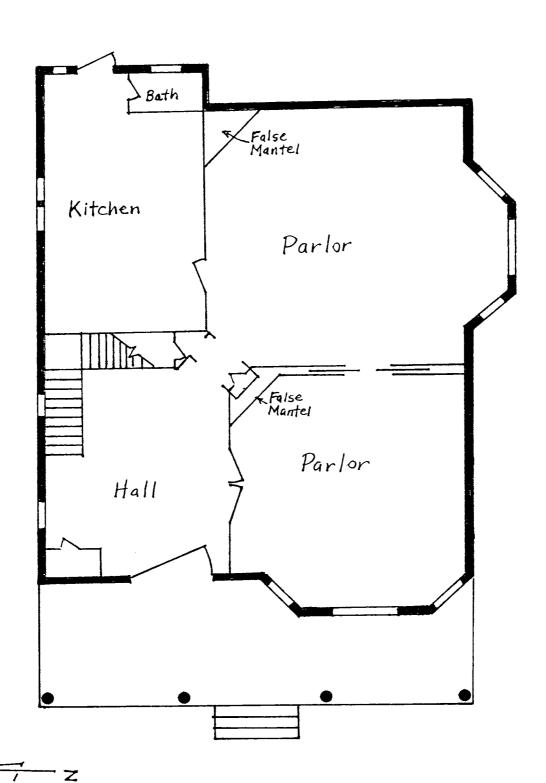
Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

Clark - Owsley House 6311 - 49th Avenue, Riverdale December 1989 Not to Scale PG# 68-70



Chain of Title

6311 49th Avenue

6930:720	
25 March	1988
Deed	

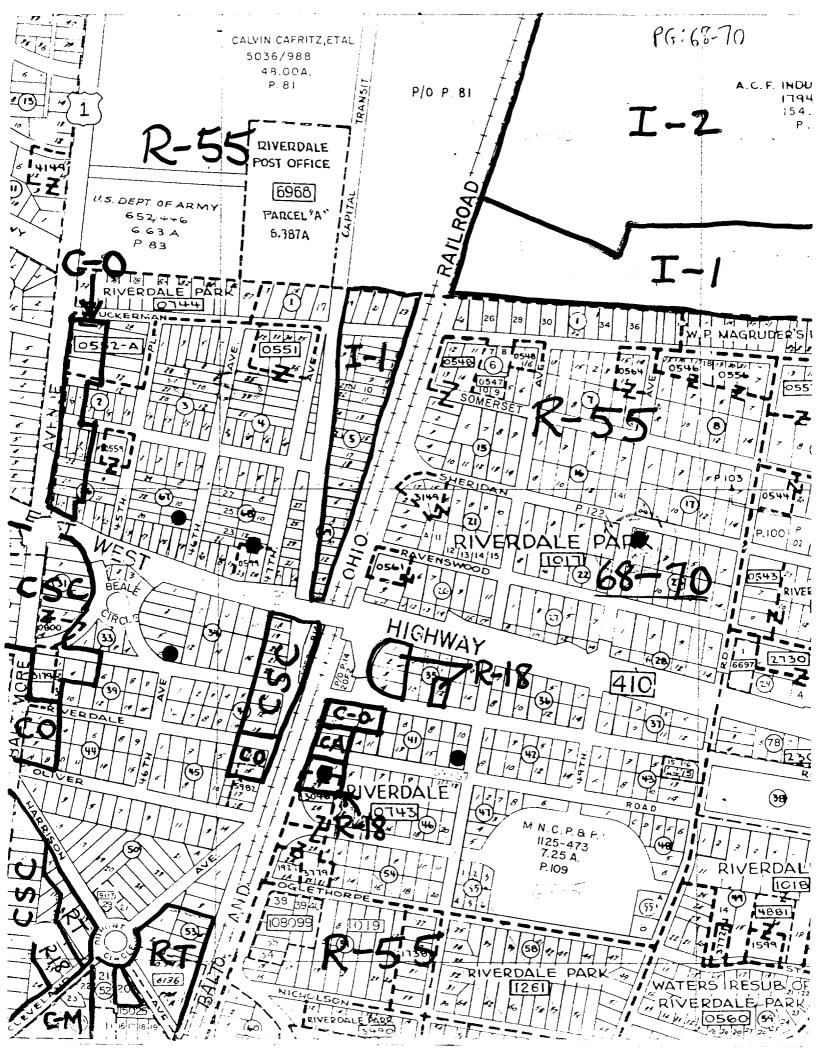
David Rice Devnew, Jr. and Lila Jean Devnew to Terrence D. and Elizabeth S. Owsley. Grantors convey Lots 1 and 2 in Block 23, Riverdale Park. Plat recorded A:42. Same obtained from Sophia Grodzicka, 26 October 1972, 4142:321.

4142:321 26 October 1972 Deed Sophia Grodzicka to David Rice Devnew, Jr. and Lila Jean Devnew. Grantor conveys Lots 1 and 2 in Block 23. Same obtained from Charles Harrison and Grace S. Storms, 24 October 1927, 294:429.

294:429 24 October 1927 Deed Charles Harrison and Grace S. Storms to Sophia Grodzicka. Grantors convey Lots 1 and 2 in Block 23. Same obtained form Alfred E. and Clara M. Clark, 29 April 1920, 153:169.

153:169 29 April 1920 Deed Alfred E. and Clara M. Clark to Charles H. and Grace S. Storms. Grantors convey Lots 1 and 2 in Block 23. Same obtained form Riverdale Park Company, 2 April 1906, 34:286.

34:286 2 April 1906 Deed Riverdale Park Company to Alfred E. and Clara M. Clark. Grantor conveys Lots 1 and 2 in Block 23 of Grantor's subdivision to clear title, this deed is made.







CLAKE - OWSLEY HOUSE 6311 497 STREET, RIVERALE PENLEGEOLIGES COUNTY, MARCHAND HOWARD S. PIERLOCK NOWDWPIEL 1999 fre bouthwest MEG: MHT, ANNHBLIS 1015

P5#68-70



PS#68-70 631 41 STREET LUCEDANT PHONES LEOLGES LOUNTY MAKYLAND HOWARD S. BERGEL NOUSYMBEL 459 MIN GOUTHEAST MEG: MHT, AXINAPOLIS 2045



FG#68-70 CLAKE OWSLEY HOUSE 6311 49" SILEET, LILEDALE PREDICE GEORGES COUNTY, MIRCHAND HOVOHED S. PEDERL JANUARRY 1990 ENTRY STAIR HALL FROM 5 NEG : MHT, ANNAPOLIS 3 OF 5



PG#68-70 CLARK-OWSLEY HOUSE 631 4 THE FREET, RIVERSHIE PRENIT GEORGES COUNTY NUMBELLAND HOWARD S. PELLER JANUARRY 1990 PHILOR MANTEL + POCKET DOOR FILM WEST NELS MHT, ANNABUS 4 0 5



15268-10 CLINKE - UNSLEY HOUSE 6311 49th SMEET, KIVERDALE PERMICE GERNGE'S COUNTY, MANUJUAND HOWNED S. BERGER JANUARY 1990 DINING ROOM MANTEL FROM SW NEG: MHT, ANNAPOLIS 50F5